

societies if not detected and stopped quickly—so we're sharing information and putting wise preparedness plans in place to help ensure that we can contain the spread of avian flu and be ready if a pandemic ever occurs. By coming together to address these and other challenges, we're helping build more hopeful societies in Asia and stronger partners for America.

Finally, Asia is important to America because we face common threats to our security. The people of this region understand the terrorist threat because they have been targets of terrorist violence. Since September the 11th, the terrorists have attacked a nightclub in Bali, a hotel in Jakarta, a ferry packed with passengers in Manila Bay, a school full of children in Russia, Australia's Embassy in Indonesia, and many other targets. The killers who committed these acts of terror are followers of a clear and focused ideology that hates freedom, rejects tolerance—and their stated goal is a radical Islamic empire stretching from Europe to Southeast Asia.

The greatest danger in our world today is that these terrorists could get their hands on weapons of mass destruction and use them to blackmail free nations or kill on an unimaginable scale. This threat poses a risk to our entire civilization, and we're working with our partners in the Asia-Pacific to defeat it.

In my meetings with leaders in the region, we discussed the threat of proliferation from North Korea. After North Korea's recent nuclear test, the United Nations Security Council passed a unanimous resolution imposing sanctions on North Korea's regime, and America is working with our partners to enforce those sanctions. We will also continue working with Japan, China, South Korea, and Russia through the six-party talks. Our nations are speaking with one voice: North Korea must abandon its nuclear weapons programs, and we will not tolerate North Korea's proliferation of nuclear technology to hostile regimes and terrorist networks.

In the long run, the surest path to security is the expansion of freedom. History shows that free societies are peaceful societies. So America is committed to advancing freedom and democracy as the great alternative to repression and radicalism. And by standing

with our allies in the Asia-Pacific region, we will defend our free way of life, confront the challenges of a new century, and build a more hopeful, peaceful, and prosperous future for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:20 a.m., local time, on November 16 at the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m., e.s.t., on November 18. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 17 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of Glenn E. "Bo" Schembechler

November 18, 2006

Bo Schembechler was a true legend of college football. I was saddened to learn of his death. He inspired generations of players and fans by insisting that his teams play hard, play fair, and bring honor to themselves and their school by finishing their educations and contributing to society. He was an extraordinary leader and role model who will be missed. Laura and I join fans of the Big Blue in extending our sympathies to his wife Cathy and his family and friends.

Remarks Following a Church Service in Hanoi

November 19, 2006

Laura and I just had a moment to converse with God in a church here in Hanoi. We were touched by the simplicity and the beauty of the moment. We appreciate very much the congregation for allowing us to come and worship with them.

A whole society is a society which welcomes basic freedoms, and there's no more basic freedom than the basic—the freedom to worship as you see fit. And Laura and I were proud to worship with believers here in Hanoi. And we, again, thank the church for the opportunity to come by. My hope is that people all across the world will be able

to express religion [religious] * freedom. And it's our way of expressing our personal faith and, at the same time, urging societies to feel comfortable with and confident in saying to their people, if you feel like praising God, you're allowed to do so in any way you see fit.

God bless, and thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:14 a.m. at Cua Bac Cathedral.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Hu Jintao of China in Hanoi

November 19, 2006

President Hu. It's a great pleasure to see you again, Mr. President. I remember, in the course of this year, we have already met each other three times; we had four telephone conversations; and we also maintained frequent exchange of letters. So it is fair to say that we are keeping very close touch and this has vigorously promoted China-U.S. relations.

I'm pleased to see new progress in China-U.S. relations since our meeting in St. Petersburg in July this year. Our two countries have maintained a frequent exchange of visits at the top levels and at different levels. And actually, our trade has also been expanding very rapidly, and I do have a piece of good news to share with you. According to U.S. statistics, in first 7 months of this year, U.S. exports to China jumped 35 percent.

Nationally, our mechanism for having strategic economic dialog has also been launched, and the first inaugural dialog will be held in Beijing around the middle of next month. And Chinese naval ships have again paid a visit to the continental America for the first time in 6 years. And even as we speak, our naval ships of the two countries are conducting joint search and rescue maneuvers in Chinese waters.

So, all in all, we feel very happy about the healthy and stable extension of China-U.S. relations. I think we would not have achieved such a state of our bilateral relations had it not been for your outstanding leadership.

* White House correction.

President Bush. Well, thank you.

President Hu. So, with this, I would like to turn it over to you.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President. You're right; you and I have had a lot of meetings. And the reason why is because we recognize that working together, we can accomplish a lot for the security of the world and for the prosperity of our people. China is a very important nation, and the United States believes strongly that by working together, we can help solve problems such as North Korea and Iran.

Our bilateral relations are very good, and we—you and I are committed to keeping them that way. Obviously, with as much commerce between our countries as there is, there's going to be trade difficulties, but nevertheless, we both adopt a spirit of mutual respect and the desire to work through our problems for the common good of our peoples.

I strongly support your vision, Mr. President, of encouraging your country to become a nation of consumers and not savers, which will inure to the benefit of our manufacturers, both large and small, and our farmers as well.

I always enjoy our frank and friendly discussions, and I'm looking forward to this one as well. And I thank you for your hospitality.

Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:34 a.m. at the Hanoi Daewoo Hotel. President Hu spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Hanoi

November 19, 2006

President Bush. Today Vladimir and I are pleased to report that after a long set of negotiations, Representative Gref and Ambassador Schwab have signed agreements that will be good for the United States and good for Russia—and that is, we support Russia's accession into the WTO. I congratulate you all for your hard work and thank you very much for the hard work.